

## Improvised Explosives Device Training Aids

1. Based upon current threats in Southwest Asia involving Improvised Explosives Devices (IED) some commanders/units, in an attempt to better prepare their soldiers for deployment, are developing their own IED training devices. While the goal of better preparing our soldiers for eventual deployment is a worthy goal, the risks associated with using these homemade IED devices may be worse than the potential training benefits.

2. Several of the improvised training devices use standard approved munitions in non-standard, untested, and unorthodox ways. The US Army Technical Center for Explosives Safety (USATCES) is aware of several of these homemade IED training devices that are using the M21 Artillery Flash Simulator often times referred to as the "Hoffman", which is actually the firing device for the M21. This simulator is one of the most dangerous simulators in the Army inventory and has been responsible for more explosives accidents and personnel injuries than any other simulator. We are also aware of at least two different "IED Training Devices" that use flour as one of the components. The use of flour not only creates an inhalation hazard for personnel, but also finely pulverized flour dispersed in air can become explosive in its own right, the combination with a military munitions could create a fuel-air explosive.

3. Use of non-standard munitions or approved munitions in non-standard ways is prohibited by Army regulations and could also violate Federal laws.

a. AR 385-63, paragraph 2-2, which requires all munitions and lasers used on ranges to have a Surface Danger Zone (SDZ). Non-standard items do not have approved SDZs.

b. AR 385-63, paragraph 2-3, which prohibits the use of non-standard ammunition or the alteration of standard ammunition.

c. DA Pam 385-63, paragraphs 3-3a, c, g and h reinforce the AR and prohibit the use of standard items in new and unique ways.

d. If a homemade IED training device is transported off post, if it is inadvertently forgotten and left on the range and latter found, is found unattended at any location, or found under other unknown/suspicious circumstances, EOD will be contacted to respond and will treat the item as a real IED threat. Also, there is the potential that the responsible individuals could be prosecuted under Federal law because such a device found under these circumstances is considered an IED incident by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

4. The good news is that the Department of Defense, Program Executive Office for Simulator, Training and Instrumentation (PEO-STRI) has procured a greatly improved IED training kit that is being fielded throughout the Military Services. The new Army approved IED training kit, **Training Improvised Explosive Device Increment 2 (TIED2)** includes several different size devices (large, pressure-sensitive mine, and booby trap). It is a safe effective system that provides non-pyrotechnic signatures using CO<sub>2</sub>, and is much improved over the initial TIED that many may be familiar with. The initial fielding of the TIED2 to installation Training Support Centers (TSC) has been taking place over the past several months and should be nearing

completion. Kits have been fielded to Army, Marine Corps, and miscellaneous other units/installations both CONUS and OCONUS.

5. The initial fielding plan has Army installations receiving 200 kits; between 6 and 44 TIED2 Kits for each installation, which should be completely fielded by the time this article is published. Some specifics for the TIED2 system include:

- a. The Operators Manual is TM 9-6920-923-10.
- b. There is an approved Trainer Program of Instruction (POI).
- c. A handy pocket guide has been prepared and is available.
- d. A Safety Assessment for the system has been prepared and is available.
- e. A Health Hazard Report for the system has been prepared and is available.
- f. Approved SDZs are established.
- g. Remote initiation and can be configured for multiple devices.

6. The bottom line is we must all do everything we can to protect our most valuable asset, our soldiers. One way to do this is by using approved training aid/devices, and not improvising with homemade IED training devices that have not been tested and approved for Army use. It is every leader's responsibility to protect our soldiers and provide a safe, realistic, and approved training environment.

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